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Nurses bar reporter from Casey's room

United Press International

WASHINGTON - Washington Post Watergate reporter Bob Woodward, now covering the Iran arms scandal, tried to bluff his way into CIA director William Casey's hospital room last month, the hospital and the CIA said yesterday. A

CIA and Georgetown University officials said Woodward made the attempt to enter the seriously ill Casey's room on Jan. 22 but was refused admission. Woodward's attempt was first reported in yesterday's edition of The Washington Times.

The Times story said Woodward "crept up to the door of Casey ... and demanded to be let in."

"The nurse on the door shook her head," the account said. "She had her orders. The gravely ill director of the CIA ... would have no visitors except his immediate family and any others specifically authorized by the family."

Woodward was reported to have replied, "But he sent for me. He wants to see me."

"No visitors," the nurse responded.

"Look," Woodward said, according to the story, "let me just put my head through a crack in the door"

A supervisor was called "to deal with the man's impudent persistence," the paper said. "The supervisor demanded identification. Only then did the man say - reluctantly - that he was Bob Woodward of The Washington Post."